

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2004-46
December 27, 2004

SUBJECT: Alternative Action for Granting Provisional Release of Nurseries Held Under the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Confirmed Nursery Protocol for *Phytophthora ramorum*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The following guidance for granting a provisional release from the PPQ Confirmed Nursery Protocol (CNP) applies only during times when host and associated host (HAH) plants in the nursery, nursery perimeter, or decorative plants (established plants within the nursery) are dormant and cannot be inspected. Additionally, it applies only to non-production nurseries that are outside of quarantined counties, and the source of the infection is plants traced forward from a known positive nursery.

When delimiting surveys in the nursery are completed, the CNP, version 6.0, allows nurseries to voluntarily destroy all HAH nursery stock in the destruction block and buffer zone in lieu of holding and monitoring. Nurseries may voluntarily destroy additional plants to further reduce the risk of *P. ramorum* being detected at the nursery.

Additionally, in cases when delimiting surveys cannot be conducted because nursery plants are dormant, nurseries are permitted to voluntarily destroy all genera of HAH nursery stock in the nursery in lieu of holding and monitoring. Nurseries may voluntarily destroy additional plants to further reduce the risk of *P. ramorum* from being detected at the nursery. Although not in the CNP, nurseries may choose this voluntary action immediately. We propose adding it to future versions of the CNP.

After HAH nursery stock has been destroyed, and all other requirements of the CNP have been met, except for the survey, inspection and sampling of HAH in the perimeter and decorative plants, because of winter dormancy, a provisional release may be made.

PPQ or the state will:

- a) Within 30 to 60 days of bud break inspect all decorative plants (established plants within the nursery) and plants (held, for sale or under propagation) of HAH genera in the nursery and sample according to the protocol detailed in Appendix 4 of the CNP.
- b) Within 30 to 60 days of bud break conduct a survey concentrated on plants of all HAH genera located within 100-meters of the perimeter of an infested nursery for symptoms of disease caused by *P. ramorum*.
- c) Sample all *P. ramorum* symptomatic plants.

If a positive find is made, nursery stock will be placed on hold and CNP restarts.

Under the conditions of this provisional release:

a) The nursery will not place HAH nursery stock within 2 meters of the drip line of HAH perimeter or decorative plants until the perimeter and landscaped plants have been inspected, sampled, and found free of *P. ramorum*.

1) The nursery should be told that if HAH perimeter or decorative plants test positive for *P. ramorum*, all HAH within 10 meters of these plants will be held and monitored for at least 90 days.

b) All nurseries, except retail outlets, must maintain records of all incoming and outgoing shipments of plants until the nursery is released from the CNP. Retail dealers must maintain records of incoming shipments of plants until the nursery is released from the CNP.

PPQ or the state shall document actions and the nursery's acceptance of the conditions associated with a provisional release. An EAN or state stop sale will remain in place until the nursery can be fully released from the CNP.

These requirements for provisional release are effective immediately and will be incorporated into Version 7 of the PPQ Confirmed Nursery Protocol.

/s/ Alan Green for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine